

Travellers: We'll only leave Dale Farm in body bags

By JON AUSTIN

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FEARFUL travellers warned how members of their community may leave illegal camps in body bags if planned evictions materialise.

Yesterday, women and children from Dale Farm, Crays Hill, and Hovefields, Wickford, staged a banner-waving protest outside the Basildon Centre.

The 30-strong group held United Nations and Roma flags, demanding an end to eviction plans amid claims removal by force without alternative homes would breach international laws.

Women screamed "Save Dale Farm" as press, including TV and radio, recorded the demonstration. One woman, aged in her 40s, cried out that the only way they would be removed was in body bags.

Some at the site previously told the Echo they would consider suicide if bailiffs dragged them off with nowhere else to go.

Grattan Puxon, an activist spearheading their campaign, said: "The council says it wants every family at the site to move off peacefully.

"They are willing to do that, but only with somewhere else to go, so this does not start all over again somewhere else."

Mr Puxon joined site elder Maryann McCarthy, 77, in the Basildon Centre to hand over a lengthy "legal memorandum" detailing why they believe any



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■ Let us stay – travellers protested in Basildon yesterday and claimed eviction could kill them

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